BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS

Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations

Contact: Data Services
Tel: (250) 387-0325
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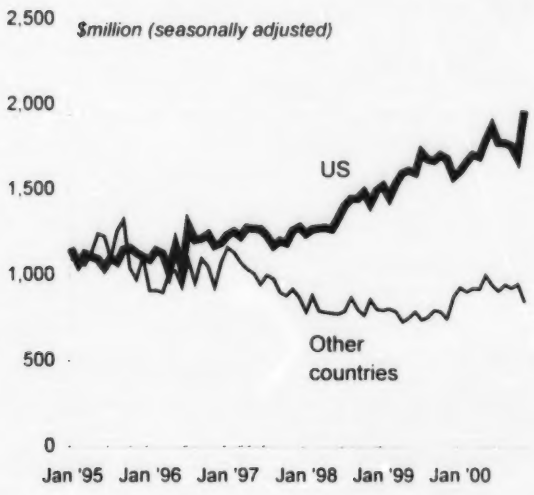
Current Statistics ◆ January 2001

- **Exports of BC products rose 6.0% between October and November 2000 (seasonally adjusted).** This was the strongest increase since April and ended two months of declines. The increase was largely due to a rise in shipments to the US (+15.2%), which reflected an increase value in sales of electric power. Exports of mining products to the US were up (+10.2%), while the forest sector continued to show only modest (+2.6%) gains. Exports of other products were also up strongly (+27.4%). Overseas exports were down by 10.3% as shipments of forestry (-3.7%) and mining (-39.3%) products slipped.

  Source BC STATS

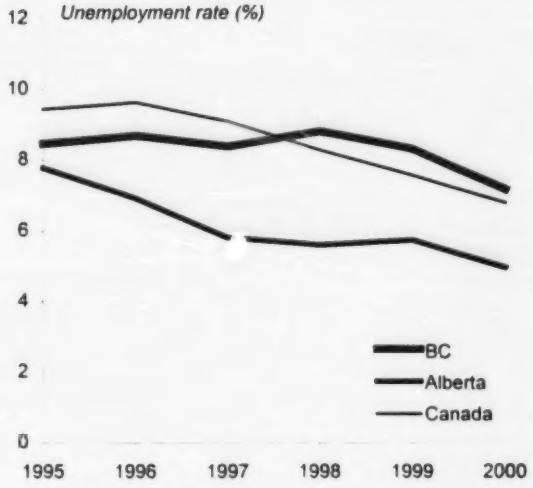
Exports to the US rose sharply in November, but shipments to other countries fell



- **British Columbia's unemployment rate increased 0.1 percentage point between November and December, rising to 7.1% (seasonally adjusted).** The marginal increase in the jobless rate was mainly due to an expansion of the province's labour force, with 11,600 (+0.5%) more people either working or looking for work in December. This offset a 0.4% rise in the number of people with jobs.

  Source: Statistics Canada

BC's unemployment rate remains higher than Alberta and the Canadian average



- **BC's unemployment rate averaged 7.2% last year, 0.4 percentage points higher than the Canadian annualized rate of 6.8%.** The rate in the province has been higher than the Canadian average for the past three years, although the size of the gap is gradually decreasing. Manitoba (4.9%) and Alberta (5.0%) were the provinces with the lowest average jobless rates in 2000. Alberta's unemployment rate has been consistently lower than both BC and Canada's. Newfoundland (16.8%), PEI (12.1%) and New Brunswick (10.1%) continued to experience double-digit unemployment rates during 2000.

  Source: Statistics Canada & BC STATS

- **British Columbia's all-items consumer price index (CPI) was 2.4% higher in December than in the same month of 1999.** This marked the sixth straight month in which the inflation rate has stayed close to or above

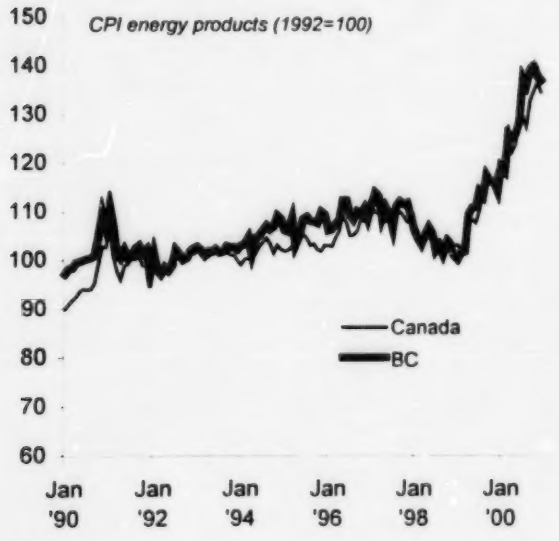
two percent. Inflation rates have been creeping up in every region of the country except NWT, where they have remained fairly stable during the last year. The territory was the only region where the year-over-year inflation rate (1.6%) in December was lower than in BC. Nationally, the overall increase in the price level remained at 3.2% in December. In the rest of the country, inflation rates ranged from a low of 2.5% in Yukon to a high of 4.0% in Saskatchewan.

Source: Statistics Canada

- **Gasoline (+26.2%), piped gas (+34.0%) and fuel oil (+28.5%) prices all increased by more than a quarter during the twelve-month period ending in December.** Year-over-year price increases for gasoline have stayed near or above 20% since mid-1999. Excluding energy products, BC's inflation rate would have been 1.2% in December.

Source: Statistics Canada

Higher gasoline and energy costs drove BC's energy CPI upwards in 2000



- **Price increases for gasoline and other energy products have been higher in BC than in the country as a whole.** Energy products in BC cost consumers 20.0% more this December than they did a year earlier. The Canadian energy products price index was up only 13.6%. Similarly, gasoline prices nation-wide have not risen as steeply (+11.7%) as they have in BC (+26.2%).

  The reason BC continues to have one of the lowest inflation rates in the country is that prices for other goods and services have not risen as much here as they have elsewhere. Canada's inflation rate excluding energy prices was 2.2% in December, nearly double the 1.2% increase that occurred in BC.

  Source: Statistics Canada

- **The number of consumer bankruptcies in BC fell slightly in November.** There were 822 consumer bankruptcies reported in the province. This represents 36 fewer bankruptcies compared to the previous month, but an increase of 82 or 11.1% more compared to November 1999. Nationally, the number of bankruptcies increased at a much lower rate (0.7%) between November 1999 and 2000. Only New Brunswick (26.4%), Newfoundland (25.3%) and Nova Scotia (23.9%) reported greater percentage increases than BC.

  Of BC's urban centres, Vancouver had the greatest number of consumer bankruptcies in November, with 334 or almost 41% of the total. The next greatest number occurred in Victoria (54) followed by Kelowna (51).

  Source: Industry Canada

- **The number of housing starts in British Columbia fell slightly in December.** A decline of 1.5% (seasonally adjusted) last month followed a much sharper drop (-36.6%) in November which was due to a civic strike in Vancouver. Starts for last year as a whole were down 1.4%, making 2000 the third consecutive year in which BC has seen a decline.

  Housing starts in Canada overall rose by 3.1% last year, despite a fall in December of 4.9%. The national increase was driven by a rise in starts in the New Brunswick (25.5%), Nova Scotia (10.8%), Newfoundland (9.9%) Ontario (8.2%) and Alberta (6.6%).

  Source: Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation

- **Retail sales in BC rose 2.1% (seasonally adjusted) between October and November 2000.** The increase was the second highest of

all the provinces and territories. Only sales in New Brunswick showed a greater jump (+2.6%). Of the ten provinces, only Quebec posted a fall in sales over the period (-1.2%). Sales in Canada overall rose 0.4%.

Source: Statistics Canada

MONTHLY STATISTICS

	UNITS	REFERENCE PERIOD	CURRENT			MONTHLY AVERAGE YEAR-TO-DATE	
			LATEST MONTH	% CHANGE FROM LAST MONTH	% CHANGE FROM YEAR AGO	AMOUNT	% CHANGE FROM YEAR AGO
PRICES							
Consumer Price Index-BC	1992=100	Dec '00	114.3	-0.2	2.4	113.3	1.8
Consumer Price Index-Vancouver	1992=100	Dec '00	115.0	-0.2	2.9	113.9	2.2
Consumer Price Index-Victoria	1992=100	Dec '00	113.9	-0.2	2.2	113.0	1.7
Consumer Price Index-Canada	1992=100	Dec '00	115.1	0.1	3.2	113.5	2.7
Consumer Price Index-USA	1982-84=100	Dec '00	174.0	-0.1	3.4	172.2	3.4
Industrial Product Price Index	1992=100	Nov '00	130.1	0.6	5.2	127.5	5.0
LABOUR							
Unemployment Rate (SA)*-BC	Percent	Dec '00	7.1	(7.0)	(7.8)	7.2	(8.3)
Unemployment Rate (SA)-Canada	Percent	Dec '00	6.8	(6.9)	(6.8)	6.8	(7.6)
Unemployment Rate (SA)-USA	Percent	Dec '00	4.0	(4.0)	(4.1)	4.0	(4.2)
Unemployed (SA)-BC	Thousand	Dec '00	150.2	2.1	-8.0	150.8	-12.8
Employed (SA)-BC	Thousand	Dec '00	1,972.5	0.4	2.3	1,950.0	2.3
Labour Force (SA)-BC	Thousand	Dec '00	2,122.8	0.5	1.5	2,100.8	1.0
Participation Rate (SA)-BC	Percent	Dec '00	65.2	(64.9)	(65.1)	64.9	(65.1)
Employment Insurance Benefits Paid-BC	$Million	Nov '00	100.4	-1.9	-8.7	114.1	-9.8
Average Weekly Wage Rate-BC***	Dollars	Dec '00	638.01	-0.8	0.8	636.95	1.9
Wages and Salaries-BC	$Million	Oct '00	5,045.3	-0.2	6.6	4,909.3	6.3
Fixed-Weighted Earnings Index	1986=100	Oct '00	143.2	0.8	1.7	143.2	1.7
PRODUCTION-B.C.							
Lumber-Cubic Metres	Thousand	Nov '00	2,659.6	-5.6	2.1	2,715.0	1.0
Market Pulp Shipments-Tonnes	Thousand	Oct '00	373.0	-16.2	-14.3	441.0	6.8
Newsprint Shipments-Tonnes	Thousand	Oct '00	117	-6.4	5.4	121	6.3
Other Paper Shipments-Tonnes	Thousand	Oct '00	140	-6.0	-0.7	140	5.4
Coal-Tonnes	Thousand	Oct '00	2,205.5	7.9	-0.2	2,114.4	3.9
Oil-Cubic Metres	Thousand	Sep '00	201.0	-5.1	5.8	214.3	9.9
Natural Gas-Cubic Metres	Million	Sep '00	1,920.6	-12.7	-4.3	2,046.9	0.1
Electric Power Generated	GW.h	Oct '00	5,525.4	2.8	-12.7	5,551.2	-1.5
Manufacturing Shipments (SA)	$Million	Nov '00	3,193.3	2.2	0.0	3,214.8	4.9
GENERAL							
Housing Starts-All Areas BC(SAAR)**	Thousand	Dec '00	12.8	-1.5	-30.1	14.3	-11.4
Housing Starts-USA (SAAR)	Thousand	Dec '00	1,575.0	0.3	-11.0	1,606.0	-4.2
Building Permits-BC	$Million	Nov '00	274.3	-9.5	-27.0	377.4	-4.1
Retail Sales (SA)-BC	$Million	Nov '00	3,050.5	2.1	8.1	2,959.5	5.9
Tourism Room Revenues (SA)-BC	$Million	Feb '00	116,829.0	1.7	1.5	115,867.0	2.1
Business Bankruptcies-BC	Number	Nov '00	93	9.4	-2.1	84	-8.2
Exports Originating in BC (SA)	$Million	Nov '00	2,780.2	5.2	13.5	2,662.5	11.5

January 25, 2001

*SA indicates seasonal adjustment.

**SAAR indicates seasonally adjusted at annual rates.

***Average Weekly Wage Rate from the Labour Force Survey. This replaces Average Weekly Earnings from the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours.

Brackets () indicate that rates are shown instead of percentage changes.

ANNUAL STATISTICS

	UNITS	YEAR			PERCENT CHANGE	
		2000	1999	1998	1999-2000	1998-1999
PRICES						
Consumer Price Index-BC	1992=100	113.3	111.2	110.0	1.9	1.1
Consumer Price Index-Vancouver	1992=100	113.9	111.4	110.4	2.2	0.9
Consumer Price Index-Victoria	1992=100	113.0	111.1	110.0	1.7	1.0
Consumer Price Index-Canada	1992=100	113.5	110.5	108.6	2.7	1.7
Consumer Price Index-USA*	1982-84=100	172.2	166.6	163.0	3.4	2.2
Industrial Product Price Index*	1992=100	NA	121.7	119.4	NA	1.9
LABOUR						
Unemployment Rate-BC	Percent	7.2	8.3	8.8		
Unemployment Rate-Canada	Percent	6.8	7.6	8.3		
Unemployment Rate-USA*	Percent	4.0	4.2	4.5		
Unemployed-BC	Thousand	150.6	172.8	181.0	-12.8	-4.5
Employed-BC	Thousand	1,949.1	1,906.4	1,870.2	2.2	1.9
Labour Force-BC	Thousand	2,099.7	2,079.1	2,051.2	1.0	1.4
Participation Rate-BC	Percent	64.9	65.1	64.9		
Employment Insurance Benefits Paid-BC*	$Million	NA	1,520.9	1,626.6	NA	-6.5
Average Weekly Wage Rate-BC	Dollars	NA	625.21	618.37	NA	1.1
Wages and Salaries-BC*	$Million	NA	55,583.2	54,173.1	NA	2.6
Fixed-Weighted Earnings Index*	1986=100	NA	141.0	141.6	NA	-0.4
PRODUCTION-B.C.						
Lumber-Cubic Metres*	Thousand	NA	31,832.1	30,236.8	NA	5.3
Market Pulp Shipments-Tonnes*	Thousand	NA	4,995	4,462	NA	11.9
Newsprint Shipments-Tonnes*	Thousand	NA	1,380	1,193	NA	15.7
Other Paper Shipments-Tonnes*	Thousand	NA	1,636	1,374	NA	19.1
Coal-Tonnes*	Thousand	NA	24,301.5	25,366.0	NA	-4.2
Oil-Cubic Metres*	Thousand	NA	2,347.6	2,763.7	NA	-15.1
Natural Gas-Cubic Metres*	Million	NA	24,635.1	24,117.7	NA	2.1
Electric Power Generated*	GW.h	NA	68,045.2	67,709.7	NA	0.5
Solid Mineral Production	$Million	NA	2,598.0	3,025.6	NA	-14.1
Farm Cash Receipts**	$Million	NA	1,941.7	1,834.9	NA	5.8
Manufacturing Shipments*	$Million	NA	36,994.3	33,890.2	NA	9.2
GENERAL						
Housing Starts-All Areas BC**	Thousand	NA	16.3	19.9	NA	-18.2
Housing Starts-USA	Thousand	1,593.8	1,666.5	1,616.9	-4.4	3.1
Building Permits-BC*	$Million	NA	4,695.9	4,739.6	NA	-0.9
Retail Sales-BC*	$Million	NA	33,672.1	33,044.8	NA	1.9
Tourism Room Revenues-BC*	$Million	NA	1,328.9	1,206.1	NA	10.2
Business Bankruptcies-BC	Number	NA	1,077	1,031	NA	4.5
Exports Originating in BC*	$Million	NA	28,722.1	26,044.8	NA	10.3
Capital Expenditures-BC	$Million	21,784.3	20,687.6	20,055.2	5.3	3.2
Population-BC (as of July 1)	Thousand	4,063.8	4,028.1	3,997.5	0.9	0.8

January 25, 2001

* derived from monthly figures

**derived from quarterly figures

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT ($ MILLIONS)

	YEAR				PERCENT CHANGE		
	1999	1998	1997	1996	98-99	97-98	96-97
BRITISH COLUMBIA							
Gross Domestic Product at Market Prices	118,783	113,945	113,596	108,454	4.2	0.3	4.7
Real GDP at Market Prices (constant 1992 $)	104,323	102,217	101,277	98,052	2.1	0.9	3.3
CANADA *							
Gross Domestic Product at Market Prices	957,911	901,805	877,921	833,070	6.2	2.7	5.4
Real GDP at Market Prices (constant 1992 $)	880,254	842,002	815,013	780,916	4.5	3.3	4.4
UNITED STATES (Billions $US) **							
Gross Domestic Product at Market Prices	9,299.2	8,790.2	8,318.4	7,813.2	5.8	5.7	6.5
Real GDP at Market Prices (chained 1996 $US)	8,875.8	8,515.7	8,159.5	7,813.2	4.2	4.4	4.4

** Preliminary actual 1999, Statistics Canada*
*** US Department of Commerce (actual)*

INTEREST AND EXCHANGE RATES

	Jan 24/01	Jan 17/01	Dec 27/00	Jan 26/00
	PERCENT PER ANNUM			
CANADA				
Prime Business Rate	7.25	7.50	7.50	6.50
Bank Rate	5.75	6.00	6.00	5.00
Long-Term Government Bond Rate (over 10 yrs)		5.70	5.59	6.36
Conventional Mortgages-1 Year		7.40	7.70	7.60
-5 Years		7.75	7.95	8.55
UNITED STATES				
Prime Rate	9.00	9.00	9.50	8.50
EXCHANGE RATES	CANADIAN $			
US Dollar	1.5124	1.5121	1.5109	1.4378
Japanese Yen	0.0128	0.0128	0.0132	0.0136
U.K. Pound	2.2096	2.2269	2.2526	2.3576
Euro	1.4002	1.4075	1.4060	1.4395

	ESTIMATE 2000	FORECASTS - 2001			FORECASTS - 2002		
	REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT	REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT	UNEMPLOY-MENT RATE	CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	REAL GDP	U RATE	CPI
	% CHANGE	% CHANGE	PERCENT	% CHANGE	% CHG	%	% CHG
BRITISH COLUMBIA							
B.C. Government (September 2000)	3.0	2.7	7.2	1.2	2.8	6.9	1.3
TD Bank (October 13, 2000)	2.9	3.0	7.2	2.5	3.3	7.1	2.0
WEFA Group (January 2001)	2.9	2.8	6.4	1.6	3.0	6.4	1.4
CANADA							
TD Bank (January 16, 2001)	5.0	2.9	6.9	2.7	3.2	6.7	2.0
WEFA Group (December 2000)	5.0	3.2	6.7	2.1	3.0	6.6	2.0
UNITED STATES							
TD Bank (January 16, 2001)	5.1	2.4	4.3	2.3	3.7	4.5	2.4
WEFA Group (December 2000)	5.2	3.2	4.6	2.7	3.5	4.7	2.5

January 25, 2001

NUMBER

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS

Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations

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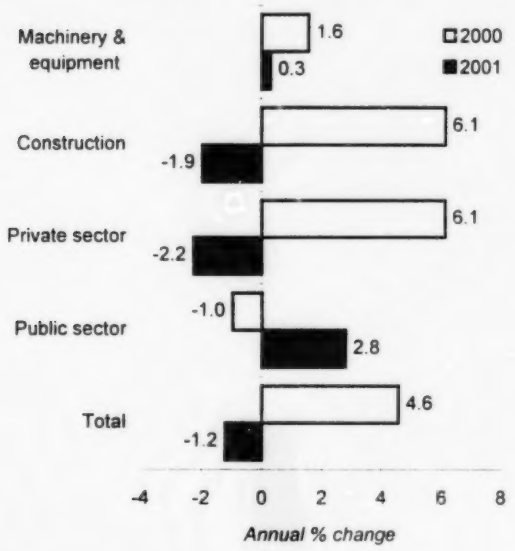
Current Statistics ◆ February 2001

Investment in the province is expected to weaken during 2001...



- **Investment by private and public sector establishments in the province is expected to fall slightly (-1.2%) this year, based on a survey of businesses, governments and institutions taken between October and January.** Spending on machinery and equipment is forecast to show little change (+0.3%), but investment in structures is expected to fall 1.9% during 2001, despite a predicted improvement (+4.3%) in the residential construction sector. Excluding housing, total investment in structures is expected to decrease 6.3% this year.

  Source: Statistics Canada

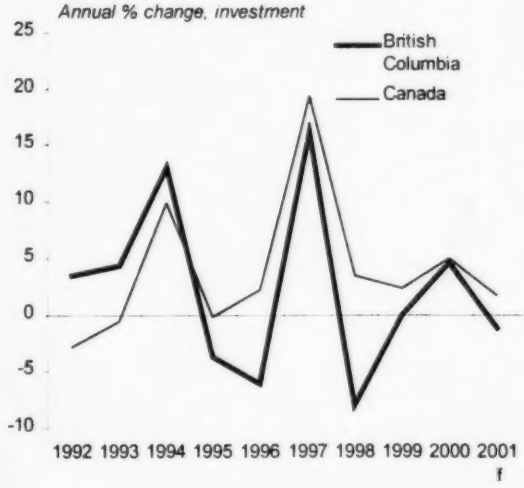
- **Public sector investment is forecast to increase 2.8%, largely due to a 6.2% rise in purchases of machinery and equipment.** Spending on structures is forecast to increase more modestly (+1.4%). However, private sector establishments that were surveyed presented a more gloomy outlook. They anticipate that investment will fall 2.2% as they hold the lid down on machinery and equipment (-1.0%) purchases while investing 2.9% less in structures.

  Source: Statistics Canada

- **Ontario (+5.2%), Alberta (+2.2%), Quebec (+0.5%) and the north are the only regions where an increase in investment spending is anticipated during 2001.** In four of the provinces, investment is expected to decrease marginally (at rates ranging from –0.2% in Nova Scotia to –1.2% in BC). Investment in the rest of Atlantic Canada is forecast to be well below 2000 levels, falling at double-digit rates in both Newfoundland (-14.1%) and New Brunswick (-16.8%). Nationally, investment spending is expected to rise 1.7% during 2001. It is anticipated that both public (+3.4%) and private (+1.4%) sector investment will increase slightly.

  Source: Statistics Canada

...following a national trend



- **The value of BC product exports increased 13.2% last year, marking the second straight year of double-digit export growth.** Exports were up in all regions, with substantial gains seen in every province except Ontario (+5.1%). Nationally, the value of exports increased

15.9%, as export growth in the rest of the country ranged from 19.2% in Quebec to 59.9% in Alberta, where gains were fuelled by the energy sector. Last year, the value of Alberta's energy product exports ($34.7 billion) was greater than its total exports in 1999 ($34.6 billion). British Columbia also received a boost from energy sales, which rose from $3.2 billion in 1999 to $5.3 billion last year. BC exporters of industrial (+20.1%) and consumer (+16.3%) goods also posted strong gains during 2000. Forest product exports were up 4.2%.

Source: Statistics Canada

- **Shipments of goods manufactured in the province rose 3.9% last year**. Overall, shipments of non-durables were up 8.0%, while durable shipments edged up 1.0%. Manufacturers of paper and related products had another good year, with shipments rising 24.0%, partly due to higher prices. Wood shipments were up only marginally (+0.8%), and the food industry (-0.7%) recorded its fourth straight annual decline. Machinery and equipment (-7.3%) and transportation equipment (-15.2%) manufacturers did not fare well in 2000, but producers of electrical and electronic products (+15.2%) bounced back from a poor showing in 1999, resuming their long-term upward trend. Nationally, shipments were up 9.2% last year.

  Source: Statistics Canada

- **Retail sales in BC increased 6.2% during 2000, partly due to strong sales in the automotive sector (+10.7%).** This was the largest annual increase in sales since 1995, when the province posted a 7.0% rise. BC's performance in 2000 was just below the national average of 6.3%. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Wholesale sales in the province rose 2.2% during 2000, following a 4.0% increase in the previous year.** Nationally, wholesale sales were up 6.3%. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Annual sales of new motor vehicles rose 6.9% in BC and the north last year.** Both car (+10.2%) and truck (+4.1%) sales were well above 1999 levels. A total of 168,032 units were sold in the region, of which 53% were trucks (including vans) and the rest passenger cars. Last year, Canadians purchased nearly 1.6 million vehicles, 3.0% more than in 1999.

  Source: Statistics Canada

- **There were 9,184 consumer bankruptcies registered in the province last year, 12.3% more than in 1999.** This was the fifth time in the last six years that consumer bankruptcies in the province have increased at double-digit rates. Nationally, the number of consumer bankruptcies has been levelling off, rising 2.9% between 1999 and 2000. *Source: Industry Canada*

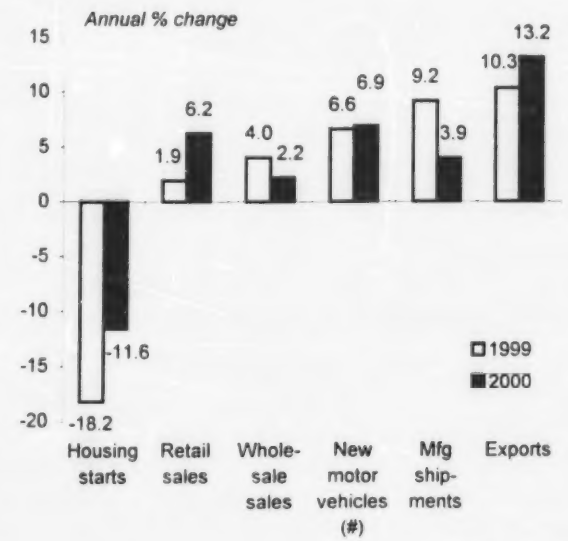
- **There were 980 business bankruptcies registered in the province last year.** This was well below the 1,077 recorded in the province during 1999. BC was one of only three provinces (the other two being Quebec and PEI) where the number of business failures registered fell. At the national level, the number of bankruptcies was virtually unchanged (+0.2%).

  Source: Industry Canada

- **The value of building permits issued in BC last year fell 4.6%.** This made 2000 the fourth consecutive year during which there has been a decline. The largest drop was seen in the residential sector (-8.2%), while non-residential permits decreased only slightly (-0.3%).

  Source: Statistics Canada

Most economic indicators for the province improved during 2000



MONTHLY STATISTICS

	UNITS	REFERENCE PERIOD	CURRENT			MONTHLY AVERAGE YEAR-TO-DATE	
			LATEST MONTH	% CHANGE FROM LAST MONTH	% CHANGE FROM YEAR AGO	AMOUNT	% CHANGE FROM YEAR AGO
PRICES							
Consumer Price Index-BC	1992=100	Jan '01	114.5	0.2	2.9	114.5	2.9
Consumer Price Index-Vancouver	1992=100	Jan '01	115.3	0.3	3.3	115.3	3.3
Consumer Price Index-Victoria	1992=100	Jan '01	113.8	-0.1	2.4	113.8	2.4
Consumer Price Index-Canada	1992=100	Jan '01	114.7	-0.3	3.0	114.7	3.0
Consumer Price Index-USA	1982-84=100	Jan '01	175.1	0.6	3.7	175.1	3.7
Industrial Product Price Index	1992=100	Dec '00	128.9	-0.9	3.5	127.7	4.9
LABOUR							
Unemployment Rate (SA)*-BC	Percent	Jan '01	7.4	(7.1)	(7.3)	7.4	(7.3)
Unemployment Rate (SA)-Canada	Percent	Jan '01	6.9	(6.8)	(6.8)	6.9	(6.8)
Unemployment Rate (SA)-USA	Percent	Jan '01	4.2	(4.0)	(4.0)	4.2	(4.0)
Unemployed (SA)-BC	Thousand	Jan '01	154.7	3.0	2.0	154.7	2.0
Employed (SA)-BC	Thousand	Jan '01	1,942.5	-1.5	0.3	1,942.5	0.3
Labour Force (SA)-BC	Thousand	Jan '01	2,097.1	-1.2	0.5	2,097.1	0.5
Participation Rate (SA)-BC	Percent	Jan '01	64.4	(65.2)	(64.9)	64.4	(64.9)
Employment Insurance Benefits Paid-BC	$Million	Dec '00	109.8	9.4	-15.6	113.7	-10.3
Average Weekly Wage Rate-BC***	Dollars	Jan '01	640.63	0.4	2.0	640.63	2.0
Wages and Salaries-BC	$Million	Nov '00	4,980.1	-1.1	7.2	4,915.0	6.3
Fixed-Weighted Earnings Index	1986=100	Nov '00	142.5	0.1	1.1	143.1	1.6
PRODUCTION-B.C.							
Lumber-Cubic Metres	Thousand	Nov '00	2,659.6	-5.6	2.1	2,715.0	1.0
Market Pulp Shipments-Tonnes	Thousand	Dec '00	382.0	5.2	-24.1	429.0	3.1
Newsprint Shipments-Tonnes	Thousand	Dec '00	126	4.1	-6.0	121	5.2
Other Paper Shipments-Tonnes	Thousand	Dec '00	126	-14.9	-16.0	140	2.3
Coal-Tonnes	Thousand	Oct '00	2,205.5	7.9	-0.2	2,114.4	3.9
Oil-Cubic Metres	Thousand	Oct '00	211.6	5.3	8.0	214.0	9.7
Natural Gas-Cubic Metres	Million	Oct '00	2,161.9	9.5	1.2	2,063.9	0.5
Electric Power Generated	GW.h	Nov '00	6,483.7	17.3	15.0	5,636.0	0.0
Manufacturing Shipments (SA)	$Million	Dec '00	3,154.8	-0.5	-4.9	3,206.6	3.9
GENERAL							
Housing Starts-All Areas BC(SAAR)**	Thousand	Jan '01	20.6	57.3	74.6	20.6	74.6
Housing Starts-USA (SAAR)	Thousand	Jan '01	1,651.0	5.3	-5.3	1,651.0	-5.3
Building Permits-BC	$Million	Dec '00	326.5	19.9	-10.5	373.0	-4.7
Retail Sales (SA)-BC	$Million	Dec '00	3,108.0	1.0	6.1	2,976.2	6.1
Tourism Room Revenues (SA)-BC	$Million	Aug '00	114,064.0	-1.6	3.3	117,758.0	6.3
Business Bankruptcies-BC	Number	Dec '00	54	-41.9	-23.9	81	-9.2
Exports Originating in BC (SA)	$Million	Nov '00	2,780.2	5.2	13.5	2,662.5	11.5

February 22, 2001

*SA indicates seasonal adjustment.

**SAAR indicates seasonally adjusted at annual rates.

***Average Weekly Wage Rate from the Labour Force Survey. This replaces Average Weekly Earnings from the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours.

Brackets () indicate that rates are shown instead of percentage changes.

ANNUAL STATISTICS

	UNITS	YEAR			PERCENT CHANGE	
		2000	1999	1998	1999-2000	1998-1999
PRICES						
Consumer Price Index-BC	1992=100	113.3	111.2	110.0	1.9	1.1
Consumer Price Index-Vancouver	1992=100	113.9	111.4	110.4	2.2	0.9
Consumer Price Index-Victoria	1992=100	113.0	111.1	110.0	1.7	1.0
Consumer Price Index-Canada	1992=100	113.5	110.5	108.6	2.7	1.7
Consumer Price Index-USA*	1982-84=100	172.2	166.6	163.0	3.4	2.2
Industrial Product Price Index*	1992=100	127.7	121.7	119.4	4.9	1.9
LABOUR						
Unemployment Rate-BC	Percent	7.2	8.3	8.8		
Unemployment Rate-Canada	Percent	6.8	7.6	8.3		
Unemployment Rate-USA*	Percent	4.0	4.2	4.5		
Unemployed-BC	Thousand	150.6	172.8	181.0	-12.8	-4.5
Employed-BC	Thousand	1,949.1	1,906.4	1,870.2	2.2	1.9
Labour Force-BC	Thousand	2,099.7	2,079.1	2,051.2	1.0	1.4
Participation Rate-BC	Percent	64.9	65.1	64.9		
Employment Insurance Benefits Paid-BC*	$Million	1,364.4	1,520.9	1,626.6	-10.3	-6.5
Average Weekly Wage Rate-BC	Dollars	NA	625.21	618.37	NA	1.1
Wages and Salaries-BC*	$Million	NA	55,583.2	54,173.1	NA	2.6
Fixed-Weighted Earnings Index*	1986=100	NA	141.0	141.6	NA	-0.5
PRODUCTION-B.C.						
Lumber-Cubic Metres*	Thousand	NA	31,832.1	30,236.8	NA	5.3
Market Pulp Shipments-Tonnes*	Thousand	5,152	4,995	4,462	3.1	11.9
Newsprint Shipments-Tonnes*	Thousand	1,452	1,380	1,193	5.2	15.7
Other Paper Shipments-Tonnes*	Thousand	1,674	1,636	1,374	2.3	19.1
Coal-Tonnes*	Thousand	NA	24,301.5	25,366.0	NA	-4.2
Oil-Cubic Metres*	Thousand	NA	2,347.6	2,763.7	NA	-15.1
Natural Gas-Cubic Metres*	Million	NA	24,635.1	24,117.7	NA	2.1
Electric Power Generated*	GW.h	NA	68,044.8	67,709.7	NA	0.5
Solid Mineral Production	$Million	NA	2,598.0	3,025.6	NA	-14.1
Farm Cash Receipts**	$Million	2,077.3	1,941.7	1,834.9	7.0	5.8
Manufacturing Shipments*	$Million	38,449.9	36,994.3	33,890.2	3.9	9.2
GENERAL						
Housing Starts-All Areas BC**	Thousand	14.4	16.3	19.9	-11.6	-18.2
Housing Starts-USA	Thousand	1,593.8	1,666.5	1,616.9	-4.4	3.1
Building Permits-BC*	$Million	4,476.1	4,695.9	4,739.6	-4.7	-0.9
Retail Sales-BC*	$Million	35,754.6	33,672.1	33,044.8	6.2	1.9
Tourism Room Revenues-BC*	$Million	NA	1,329.3	1,206.1	NA	10.2
Business Bankruptcies-BC	Number	980	1,077	1,031	-9.0	4.5
Consumer Bankruptcies-BC	Number	9,184	8,181	7,324	12.3	11.7
Exports Originating in BC*	$Million	32,518.3	28,738.0	26,045.1	13.2	10.3
Capital Expenditures-BC	$Million	20,972.2	20,056.7	20,055.2	4.6	0.0
Population-BC (as of July 1)	Thousand	4,063.8	4,028.1	3,997.5	0.9	0.8

February 22, 2001

* derived from monthly figures

**derived from quarterly figures

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT ($ MILLIONS)

	YEAR				PERCENT CHANGE		
	1999	1998	1997	1996	98-99	97-98	96-97
BRITISH COLUMBIA							
Gross Domestic Product at Market Prices	118,783	113,945	113,596	108,454	4.2	0.3	4.7
Real GDP at Market Prices (constant 1992 $)	104,323	102,217	101,277	98,052	2.1	0.9	3.3
CANADA *							
Gross Domestic Product at Market Prices	957,911	901,805	877,921	833,070	6.2	2.7	5.4
Real GDP at Market Prices (constant 1992 $)	880,254	842,002	815,013	780,916	4.5	3.3	4.4
UNITED STATES (Billions $US) **							
Gross Domestic Product at Market Prices	9,299.2	8,790.2	8,318.4	7,813.2	5.8	5.7	6.5
Real GDP at Market Prices (chained 1996 $US)	8,875.8	8,515.7	8,159.5	7,813.2	4.2	4.4	4.4

** Preliminary actual 1999, Statistics Canada*
*** US Department of Commerce (actual)*

INTEREST AND EXCHANGE RATES

	Feb 21/01	Feb 14/01	Jan 24/01	Feb 23/00
	PERCENT PER ANNUM			
CANADA				
Prime Business Rate	7.25	7.25	7.25	6.75
Bank Rate	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.25
Long-Term Government Bond Rate (over 10 yrs)		5.72	5.79	5.98
Conventional Mortgages-1 Year		7.20	7.40	7.60
-5 Years		7.75	7.75	8.55
UNITED STATES				
Prime Rate	8.50	8.50	9.00	8.75
EXCHANGE RATES	CANADIAN $			
US Dollar	1.5366	1.5254	1.5112	1.4644
Japanese Yen	0.0132	0.0131	0.0129	0.0132
U.K. Pound	2.2114	2.2242	2.2196	2.3507
Euro	1.3939	1.4033	1.4153	1.4670

	ESTIMATE 2000	FORECASTS - 2001			FORECASTS - 2002		
	REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT	REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT	UNEMPLOY-MENT RATE	CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	REAL GDP	U RATE	CPI
	% CHANGE	% CHANGE	PERCENT	% CHANGE	% CHG	%	% CHG
BRITISH COLUMBIA							
B.C. Government (September 2000)	3.0	2.7	7.2	1.2	2.8	6.9	1.3
TD Bank (October 13, 2000)	2.9	3.0	7.2	2.5	3.3	7.1	2.0
WEFA Group (January 2001)	2.9	2.8	6.4	1.6	3.0	6.4	1.4
CANADA							
TD Bank (January 16, 2001)	5.0	2.9	6.9	2.7	3.2	6.7	2.0
WEFA Group (December 2000)	5.0	3.2	6.7	2.1	3.0	6.6	2.0
UNITED STATES							
TD Bank (January 16, 2001)	5.1	2.4	4.3	2.3	3.7	4.5	2.4
WEFA Group (December 2000)	5.2	3.2	4.6	2.7	3.5	4.7	2.5

February 22, 2001

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS

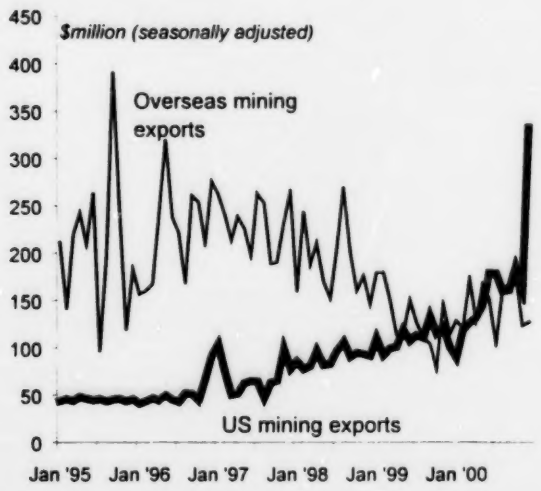
Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations

CENSUS 2001 May 15 Count yourself in!

Contact: Data Services
Tel: (250) 387-0325
Release: March 29, 2001
Issue: 01-03

Current Statistics ◆ March 2001

Exports of energy products to the US rose sharply in December



- **Exports of BC products ended the year on a high note, increasing 5.2% (seasonally adjusted) between November and December.** This was the second straight month in which exports have jumped.

  The strength in BC's exports continued to come from the US market, where growth was fuelled by energy products. Mineral product exports to the US–mostly natural gas–soared (+71.7%) in December. At the same time, power sales to California continued to boost the total (+8.2%) for exports of goods other than forest, mining, agriculture and fish products. Electricity exports typically comprise a relatively small share (less than 10%) of the total for "other products"; in December, the ratio was just over 50%. Forest products, usually the province's biggest export commodity, fell 5.1% in December, and US-bound shipments of agriculture and fish products (excluding processed goods) were down 15.8%.

  Exports to the rest of the world decreased 1.5% in December. Forest products, which make up about 60% of BC's overseas exports, fell 2.9%. International shipments of mineral products (+8.6%) rose, as did agriculture and fish products (+10.9%), but exports of other goods were down (-4.1%) in December.

  Source: BC STATS

- **Manufacturing shipments in the province fell 3.7% in January (seasonally adjusted).** BC's decline was the second largest of all the provinces, behind Newfoundland (-11.4%). Overall, Canadian shipments rose slightly (+0.3%).

  Shipments of durable goods fell 5.7% in January. This was the first drop since October 2000. Declines were posted in all major groups except non-metallic mineral products which rose (3.8%). The largest industry, wood product manufacturing, saw shipments fall 4.6%. Decreases were also seen in computer and electronic products (-16.8%) and machinery manufacturing shipments (-13.9%).

  On the non-durable goods side, shipments fell for the fourth consecutive month, posting a decrease of 0.7% in January. The decline was largely due to a fall in the largest industry in this sector, paper manufacturing (-4.1%), which was partly offset by an increase in the second largest industry, food (+1.6%). Decreased shipments were also seen in leather and allied industries (-15.5%), clothing (-4.0%), plastics and rubber products (-1.2%) and printing and related support activities (-0.4%).

  Source: Statistics Canada

- **Despite slower growth at the end of the year, Canada's economy put in another strong performance in 2000, with GDP increasing 4.7% during the year.** Domestic demand for goods and services remained strong (+5.2%), but the annual trade surplus weakened as export growth (+9.6%) did not keep pace with imports (+12.0%).

  Source: Statistics Canada

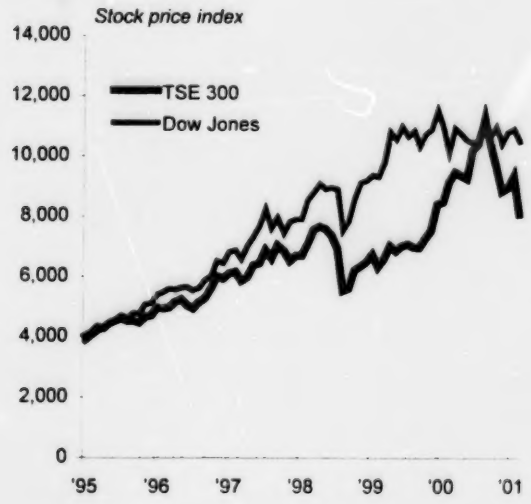
- **British Columbia's unemployment rate fell 0.1 of a percentage point in February to**

7.3% (seasonally adjusted). The decline occurred as an increase in the labour force of 5,200 people (+0.2%) was more than offset by an increase of 6,900 in the number of people who found jobs (+0.4%).

Part-time employment in the province fell for the third consecutive month, declining 1.0%. The number of men working in part-time jobs increased 3.1%, but the number of women decreased 2.7%. Full-time employment was up (0.7%), with increases in the number of men (0.1%) and women (1.7%) employed. The number of public sector jobs rose 2.1%, while the private sector contracted by 0.4%.

Source: Statistics Canada

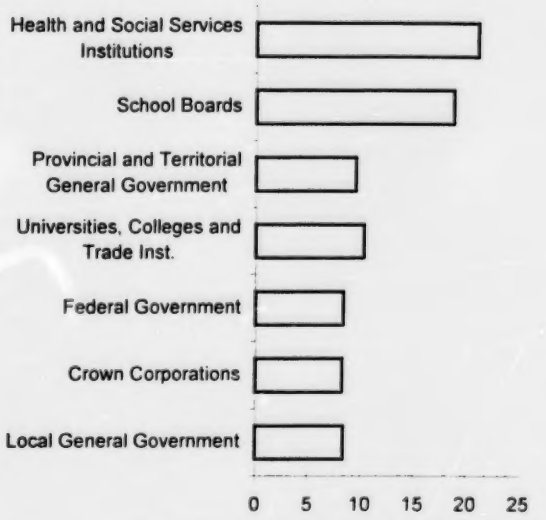
Despite recent falls in the TSE 300 index, average stock prices are still high by historical standards



- **BC's retail sales fell 1.0% between December and January (seasonally adjusted).** Shoppers spent $3,064 million in stores in the first month of this year. This was the first drop since October 2000, and the largest monthly decrease since May 1999. BC's decline in sales was the largest of all the provinces. Nationally spending in retail stores increased 0.6% to $23.8 billion. *Source: Statistics Canada*
- **Relative to the population, BC's public sector was the second smallest in the country last year.** There were 86 public sector workers for every 1,000 residents of the province, 19 less than the national average of 105. The lowest number was found in Ontario, where there were 84 public sector workers per 1,000 people. By contrast, the highest rates of employment were seen in Yukon (153) and PEI (111).

Source: Statistics Canada, Public Institutions Division & BC STATS

Nearly half of all public sector workers are employed by school boards and health and social service institutions



- **The number of consumer bankruptcies in BC was up 6.0% in January, compared to the same month in 2000.** There were 773 bankruptcies in the province, compared to 729 registered twelve months earlier. Across the country, bankruptcies increased in 8 of the 13 provinces and territories, with an overall national increase of 561 or 10.3%.

Source: Industry Canada

- **Business bankruptcies in the province were up 34.8% in January, compared to January 2000.** The number of Canadian businesses filing bankruptcy papers increased 10.1% from twelve months earlier. In total, 890 businesses in Canada, and 93 in BC, went bankrupt in January. *Source: Industry Canada*

MONTHLY STATISTICS

	UNITS	REFERENCE PERIOD	CURRENT			MONTHLY AVERAGE YEAR-TO-DATE	
			LATEST MONTH	% CHANGE FROM LAST MONTH	% CHANGE FROM YEAR AGO	AMOUNT	% CHANGE FROM YEAR AGO
PRICES							
Consumer Price Index-BC	1992=100	Feb '01	112.6	-1.7	1.1	113.6	2.0
Consumer Price Index-Vancouver	1992=100	Feb '01	113.9	-1.2	1.9	114.6	2.6
Consumer Price Index-Victoria	1992=100	Feb '01	111.3	-2.2	0.0	112.6	1.2
Consumer Price Index-Canada	1992=100	Feb '01	115.2	0.4	2.9	115.0	2.9
Consumer Price Index-USA	1982-84=100	Feb '01	175.8	0.4	3.5	175.5	3.6
Industrial Product Price Index	1992=100	Feb '01	129.3	0.5	2.6	129.0	2.9
LABOUR							
Unemployment Rate (SA)*-BC	Percent	Feb '01	7.3	(7.4)	(7.0)	7.4	(7.1)
Unemployment Rate (SA)-Canada	Percent	Feb '01	6.9	(6.9)	(6.8)	6.9	(6.8)
Unemployment Rate (SA)-USA	Percent	Feb '01	4.2	(4.2)	(4.1)	4.2	(4.1)
Unemployed (SA)-BC	Thousand	Feb '01	152.8	-1.2	3.8	153.8	3.2
Employed (SA)-BC	Thousand	Feb '01	1,949.4	0.4	0.1	1,946.0	0.2
Labour Force (SA)-BC	Thousand	Feb '01	2,102.3	0.2	0.4	2,099.7	0.4
Participation Rate (SA)-BC	Percent	Feb '01	64.5	(64.4)	(65.0)	64.5	(65.0)
Employment Insurance Benefits Paid-BC	$Million	Jan '01	153.7	39.9	4.6	153.7	4.6
Average Weekly Wage Rate-BC***	Dollars	Feb '01	643.13	0.4	2.7	641.88	2.4
Wages and Salaries-BC	$Million	Dec '00	5,060.0	1.8	6.7	4,925.3	6.3
Fixed-Weighted Earnings Index	1986=100	Dec '00	143.2	0.8	0.4	143.1	1.5
PRODUCTION-B.C.							
Lumber-Cubic Metres	Thousand	Dec '00	2,290.2	-13.9	1.0	2,679.6	1.0
Market Pulp Shipments-Tonnes	Thousand	Jan '01	388.0	1.6	-19.8	388.0	-19.8
Newsprint Shipments-Tonnes	Thousand	Jan '01	128	1.6	6.7	128	6.7
Other Paper Shipments-Tonnes	Thousand	Jan '01	142	12.7	6.8	142	6.8
Coal-Tonnes	Thousand	Dec '00	1,936.3	-11.1	11.8	2,104.9	3.9
Oil-Cubic Metres	Thousand	Nov '00	201.1	-5.0	3.6	212.8	9.1
Natural Gas-Cubic Metres	Million	Nov '00	2,283.7	5.6	12.0	2,083.9	1.6
Electric Power Generated	GW.h	Dec '00	6,052.6	-6.8	-0.3	5,679.2	0.2
Manufacturing Shipments (SA) (NAICS)	$Million	Jan '01	3,021.4	-3.7	-6.6	3,021.4	-6.6
GENERAL							
Housing Starts-All Areas BC(SAAR)**	Thousand	Feb '01	15.5	-24.8	-3.7	18.1	29.4
Housing Starts-USA (SAAR)	Thousand	Feb '01	1,647.0	-0.4	-9.6	1,650.0	-7.5
Building Permits-BC	$Million	Jan '01	299.1	-8.4	-23.5	299.1	-23.5
Retail Sales (SA)-BC	$Million	Jan '01	3,063.8	-1.0	5.6	3,063.8	5.6
Tourism Room Revenues (SA)-BC	$Million	Oct '00	117,735.0	0.5	13.2	118,078.0	7.2
Business Bankruptcies-BC	Number	Jan '01	93	72.2	34.8	93	34.8
Exports Originating in BC (SA)	$Million	Jan '01	2,494.7	-16.9	-1.6	2,494.7	-1.6

March 29, 2001

*SA indicates seasonal adjustment.

**SAAR indicates seasonally adjusted at annual rates.

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Employment Insurance Benefits Paid-BC*	$Million	1,364.4	1,520.9	1,626.6	-10.3	-6.5
Average Weekly Wage Rate-BC	Dollars	637.07	625.22	618.35	1.9	1.1
Wages and Salaries-BC*	$Million	59,103.2	55,583.2	54,173.1	6.3	2.6
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Coal-Tonnes*	Thousand	25,259.3	24,301.5	25,366.0	3.9	-4.2
Oil-Cubic Metres*	Thousand	NA	2,347.6	2,763.7	NA	-15.1
Natural Gas-Cubic Metres*	Million	NA	24,635.1	24,117.7	NA	2.1
Electric Power Generated*	GW.h	68,150.4	68,044.8	67,709.7	0.2	0.5
Solid Mineral Production	$Million	NA	2,598.0	3,025.6	NA	-14.1
Farm Cash Receipts**	$Million	2,077.3	1,941.7	1,834.9	7.0	5.8
Manufacturing Shipments*(NAICS)	$Million	37,755.5	35,616.0	31,756.7	6.0	12.2
GENERAL						
Housing Starts-All Areas BC**	Thousand	14.4	16.3	19.9	-11.6	-18.2
Housing Starts-USA	Thousand	1,593.8	1,666.5	1,616.9	-4.4	3.1
Building Permits-BC*	$Million	4,492.0	4,695.5	4,739.6	-4.3	-0.9
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March 29, 2001

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Gross Domestic Product at Market Prices	1,038,794.0	957,911	901,805	877,921	8.4	6.2	2.7
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UNITED STATES (Billions $US) **							
Gross Domestic Product at Market Prices	9,963.1	9,299.2	8,790.2	8,318.4	7.1	5.8	5.7
Real GDP at Market Prices (chained 1996 $US)	9,318.5	8,875.8	8,515.7	8,159.5	5.0	4.2	4.4

** Preliminary actual 2000, Statistics Canada*
*** US Department of Commerce (actual)*

INTEREST AND EXCHANGE RATES

	Mar 28/01	Mar 21/01	Feb 28/01	Mar 29/00
	PERCENT PER ANNUM			
CANADA				
Prime Business Rate	6.75	6.75	7.25	7.00
Bank Rate	5.25	5.25	5.75	5.50
Long-Term Government Bond Rate (over 10 yrs)		5.54	5.63	5.96
Conventional Mortgages-1 Year		6.70	7.20	7.70
-5 Years		7.25	7.75	8.35
UNITED STATES				
Prime Rate	8.00	8.00	8.50	9.00
EXCHANGE RATES	CANADIAN $			
US Dollar	1.5670	1.5726	1.5316	1.4553
Japanese Yen	1.0278	0.0127	0.0131	0.0138
U.K. Pound	2.2494	2.2499	2.2112	2.3106
Euro	1.3915	1.4109	1.4110	1.3866

	ESTIMATE 2000	FORECASTS - 2001			FORECASTS - 2002		
	REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT	REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT	UNEMPLOY-MENT RATE	CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	REAL GDP	U RATE	CPI
	% CHANGE	% CHANGE	PERCENT	% CHANGE	% CHG	%	% CHG
BRITISH COLUMBIA							
B.C. Government (March 2001)	3.4	2.4	7.4	1.7	2.9	7.2	1.6
TD Bank (March 28, 2001)	3.2	2.1	7.5	1.9	3.0	7.3	1.8
WEFA Group (January 2001)	2.9	2.8	6.4	1.6	3.0	6.4	1.4
CANADA							
TD Bank (March 22, 2001)		2.2	7.2	2.4	3.3	7.0	1.9
WEFA Group (March 2001)		2.5	6.9	2.4	2.8	6.7	1.7
UNITED STATES							
TD Bank (March 22, 2001)		1.3	4.5	2.7	3.4	4.8	2.5
WEFA Group (March 2001)		2.0	4.7	2.7	3.2	5.0	2.6

March 29, 2001

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS

Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations

CENSUS May 15 2001 Count yourself in!

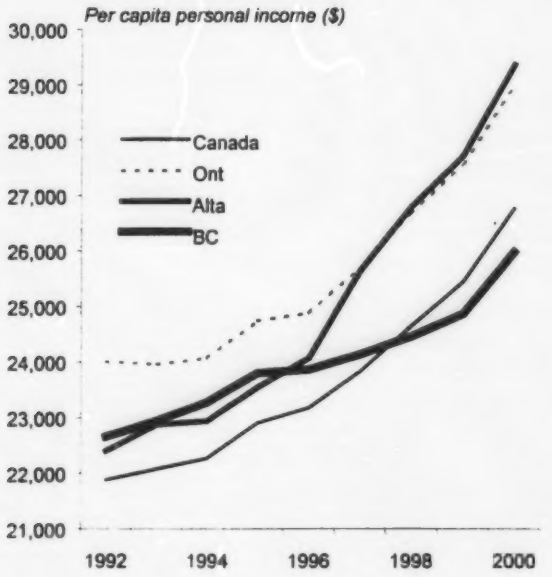
Contact: Data Services
Tel: (250) 387-0325
Release: Date, 2001
Issue: 01-04

Current Statistics ◆ April 2001

- **Personal income in British Columbia rose 5.3% in 2000.** Personal income is a measure of income from all sources (employment, unincorporated business, investments and transfers). The largest component, wages and salaries, rose 6.4% last year, more than at any time since 1990. Investment income (+4.3%) and total transfers from government, such as employment insurance, social assistance and other payments including pensions (+3.1%) also increased, but more moderately. Net income from unincorporated businesses rose 2.7% compared to 1999.

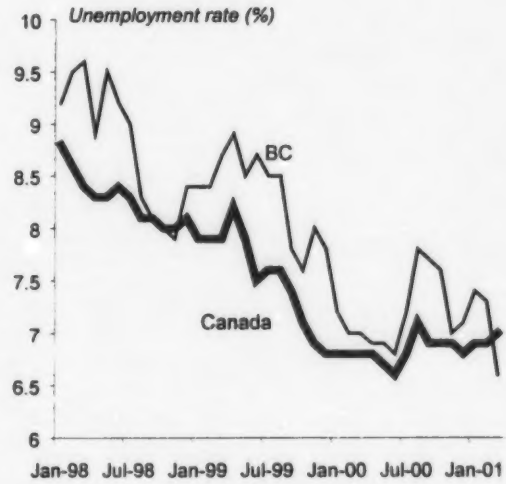
  The increase in BC's personal income was lower than the national average of 6.1%, for the fourth consecutive year. The rise in personal income in the province was the sixth highest in the country behind NWT (+8.5%), Alberta (+7.3%), Manitoba (+7.0%), Nunavut (+6.4%) and Ontario (+6.4%). *Source: Statistics Canada*

Per capita personal income remained below the national average in 2000



- **On a per capita basis, personal income in the province was $25,978, up 4.4% from 1999.** Despite the increase, the per capita income of British Columbians remained below the national average ($26,768) in 2000. The highest per capita income was found in the north (NWT $37,426 and Yukon $31,210) where workers receive higher wages to compensate for living in a comparatively isolated part of the country. However, Nunavut ($19,320) had the lowest per capita income in the country. Of the provinces, BC came in third behind Alberta ($29,364) and Ontario ($28,977). *Source: Statistics Canada*

BC's unemployment rate fell below the national average in March this year for the first time since November 1998



- **British Columbia's unemployment rate decreased 0.7 of a percentage point between February and March, falling to 6.6% (seasonally adjusted).** This was the largest decrease of all the provinces, and the second consecutive month in which the rate had fallen. The decline in March occurred as an increase in the number of people employed of

22,300 (+1.1%) more than offset a rise in the province's labour force of 8,200 (+0.4%). Job gains were primarily seen in the health and social service sector, where there was an 8.9% increase in the number of people employed, and the construction industry, where employment rose by 8.1%.

Canada's unemployment rate edged up 0.1 of a percentage point to 7.0%, as an increase in the labour force of 0.3% offset a smaller rise (+0.2%) in the number of people employed in the country. Across the country, BC was one of only three provinces to see a decline in the unemployment rate in March. The others were Prince Edward Island (-0.4 percentage point) and Saskatchewan (-0.1 percentage point).

Source: Statistics Canada

- **British Columbia's retail sales rose 1.5% between January and February (seasonally adjusted), more than making up for the 1.0% drop seen in the previous month.** Shoppers spent $3,113 million in stores, up $47 million on January levels. BC was the only province in which there were increased sales in February, although Yukon (+13.9%), NWT (+3.0%) and Nunavut (1.1%) also saw rises. The greatest drops were posted in Nova Scotia (-4.7%), Newfoundland (-0.9%) and New Brunswick (-0.9%). Nationally, retail sales fell 0.3% to $23.6 billion. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The value of building permits issued by BC municipalities picked up in February, rising 9.7% (seasonally adjusted).** This followed a decline of 1.5% the previous month. The increase was due to rises in all three components of the non-residential sector; industrial (+58.2%), commercial (+50.3%) and institutional (+4.3%). This resulted in an overall increase of 39.6% in the value of non-residential permits, and was the largest advance seen in all the provinces. The gains in BC's non-residential sector more than offset a 10.3% decline in residential permits in February. Nationally, the value of building permits fell 9.1%, as decreases were seen in all provinces except New Brunswick (+45.3), Alberta (+0.8%) and BC. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The number of consumer bankruptcies was up 5.5% in February, compared to the same month in 2000.** There were 818 bankruptcies in the province, compared to 775 registered twelve months earlier. Across the country, the number of consumer bankruptcies decreased in 8 of the 13 provinces and territories, with an overall national decrease of 307 or 4.9% in February. *Source: Industry Canada*

- **Business bankruptcies in the province were up 19.4% year-over-year compared to February 2000.** In Canada overall, however, the total number of businesses filing bankruptcy papers was unchanged from twelve months earlier. In total, 896 businesses in Canada, and 86 in BC, went bankrupt in February. *Source: Industry Canada*

Net interprovincial migration declined last year, after increasing in 1999

- **Annual net migration to BC was 17,892 persons in 2000.** A net inflow of 32,015 people from international sources was partly offset by a net interprovincial outflow of 14,123 persons. Alberta was the main destination, with 11,948 more people migrating from BC to Alberta than moving in the reverse direction. There were also net outflows to Ontario (-3,509) and Atlantic Canada (-446).

Source: BC STATS

MONTHLY STATISTICS

	UNITS	REFERENCE PERIOD	CURRENT			MONTHLY AVERAGE YEAR-TO-DATE	
			LATEST MONTH	% CHANGE FROM LAST MONTH	% CHANGE FROM YEAR AGO	AMOUNT	% CHANGE FROM YEAR AGO
PRICES							
Consumer Price Index-BC	1992=100	Mar '01	113.3	0.6	0.9	113.5	1.6
Consumer Price Index-Vancouver	1992=100	Mar '01	114.0	0.1	1.1	114.4	2.1
Consumer Price Index-Victoria	1992=100	Mar '01	112.4	1.0	0.2	112.5	0.9
Consumer Price Index-Canada	1992=100	Mar '01	115.6	0.3	2.5	115.2	2.8
Consumer Price Index-USA	1982-84=100	Mar '01	176.2	0.2	2.9	175.7	3.4
Industrial Product Price Index	1992=100	Feb '01	129.3	0.5	2.6	129.0	2.9
LABOUR							
Unemployment Rate (SA)*-BC	Percent	Mar '01	6.6	(7.3)	(7.0)	7.1	(7.1)
Unemployment Rate (SA)-Canada	Percent	Mar '01	7.0	(6.9)	(6.8)	6.9	(6.8)
Unemployment Rate (SA)-USA	Percent	Mar '01	4.3	(4.2)	(4.0)	4.2	(4.0)
Unemployed (SA)-BC	Thousand	Mar '01	138.8	-9.2	-5.6	148.8	0.3
Employed (SA)-BC	Thousand	Mar '01	1,971.7	1.1	1.4	1,954.5	0.6
Labour Force (SA)-BC	Thousand	Mar '01	2,110.5	0.4	0.9	2,103.3	0.6
Participation Rate (SA)-BC	Percent	Mar '01	64.6	(64.5)	(64.8)	64.5	(64.9)
Employment Insurance Benefits Paid-BC	$Million	Feb '01	148.6	-3.3	14.3	151.1	9.2
Average Weekly Wage Rate-BC***	Dollars	Mar '01	650.17	1.1	3.1	644.64	2.6
Wages and Salaries-BC	$Million	Dec '00	5,060.0	1.8	6.7	4,925.3	6.3
Fixed-Weighted Earnings Index	1986=100	Dec '00	143.2	0.8	0.4	143.1	1.5
PRODUCTION-B.C.							
Lumber-Cubic Metres	Thousand	Jan '01	2,842.4	24.1	2.8	2,842.4	2.8
Market Pulp Shipments-Tonnes	Thousand	Jan '01	388.0	1.6	-19.8	388.0	-19.8
Newsprint Shipments-Tonnes	Thousand	Jan '01	128	1.6	6.7	128	6.7
Other Paper Shipments-Tonnes	Thousand	Jan '01	142	12.7	6.8	142	6.8
Coal-Tonnes	Thousand	Feb '01	2,163.1	-5.6	-4.8	2,227.5	-1.0
Oil-Cubic Metres	Thousand	Dec '00	211.3	5.1	4.3	212.7	8.7
Natural Gas-Cubic Metres	Million	Dec '00	2,409.1	5.5	16.7	2,112.2	2.9
Electric Power Generated	GW.h	Jan '01	5,688.0	-6.1	-16.6	5,688.0	-16.6
Manufacturing Shipments (SA) (NAICS)	$Million	Feb '01	2,996.1	-0.8	-5.1	3,008.4	-5.9
GENERAL							
Housing Starts-All Areas BC(SAAR)**	Thousand	Mar '01	13.7	-8.7	11.4	16.3	21.6
Housing Starts-USA (SAAR)	Thousand	Mar '01	1,613.0	-1.3	-1.0	1,639.0	-5.4
Building Permits-BC	$Million	Feb '01	332.6	11.8	49.9	315.1	2.9
Retail Sales (SA)-BC	$Million	Feb '01	3,112.6	1.5	6.7	3,089.3	5.8
Tourism Room Revenues (SA)-BC	$Million	Nov '00	121,437.0	2.5	8.3	118,421.0	7.3
Business Bankruptcies-BC	Number	Feb '01	86	-7.5	19.4	90	27.0
Exports Originating in BC (SA)	$Million	Feb '01	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

April 26, 2001

*SA indicates seasonal adjustment.

**SAAR indicates seasonally adjusted at annual rates.

***Average Weekly Wage Rate from the Labour Force Survey. This replaces Average Weekly Earnings from the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours.

Brackets () indicate that rates are shown instead of percentage changes.

ANNUAL STATISTICS

	UNITS	YEAR			PERCENT CHANGE	
		2000	1999	1998	1999-2000	1998-1999
PRICES						
Consumer Price Index-BC	1992=100	113.3	111.2	110.0	1.9	1.1
Consumer Price Index-Vancouver	1992=100	113.9	111.4	110.4	2.2	0.9
Consumer Price Index-Victoria	1992=100	113.0	111.1	110.0	1.7	1.0
Consumer Price Index-Canada	1992=100	113.5	110.5	108.6	2.7	1.7
Consumer Price Index-USA*	1982-84=100	172.2	166.6	163.0	3.4	2.2
Industrial Product Price Index*	1992=100	127.7	121.7	119.4	4.9	1.9
LABOUR						
Unemployment Rate-BC	Percent	7.2	8.3	8.8		
Unemployment Rate-Canada	Percent	6.8	7.6	8.3		
Unemployment Rate-USA*	Percent	4.0	4.2	4.5		
Unemployed-BC	Thousand	150.6	172.8	181.0	-12.8	-4.5
Employed-BC	Thousand	1,949.1	1,906.4	1,870.2	2.2	1.9
Labour Force-BC	Thousand	2,099.7	2,079.1	2,051.2	1.0	1.4
Participation Rate-BC	Percent	64.9	65.1	64.9		
Employment Insurance Benefits Paid-BC*	$Million	1,364.4	1,520.9	1,626.6	-10.3	-6.5
Average Weekly Wage Rate-BC	Dollars	637.07	625.22	618.35	1.9	1.1
Wages and Salaries-BC*	$Million	59,103.2	55,583.2	54,173.1	6.3	2.6
Fixed-Weighted Earnings Index*	1986=100	143.1	141.0	141.6	1.5	-0.5
PRODUCTION-B.C.						
Lumber-Cubic Metres*	Thousand	32,155.6	31,833.0	30,237.9	1.0	5.3
Market Pulp Shipments-Tonnes*	Thousand	5,152	4,995	4,462	3.1	11.9
Newsprint Shipments-Tonnes*	Thousand	1,452	1,380	1,193	5.2	15.7
Other Paper Shipments-Tonnes*	Thousand	1,674	1,636	1,374	2.3	19.1
Coal-Tonnes*	Thousand	25,259.3	24,301.5	25,366.0	3.9	-4.2
Oil-Cubic Metres*	Thousand	2,552.3	2,347.6	2,763.7	8.7	-15.1
Natural Gas-Cubic Metres*	Million	25,346.9	24,635.1	24,117.7	2.9	2.1
Electric Power Generated*	GW.h	68,239.5	68,044.8	67,709.7	0.3	0.5
Solid Mineral Production	$Million	NA	2,598.0	3,025.6	NA	-14.1
Farm Cash Receipts**	$Million	2,077.3	1,941.7	1,834.9	7.0	5.8
Manufacturing Shipments*(NAICS)	$Million	37,771.8	35,616.0	31,756.7	6.1	12.2
GENERAL						
Housing Starts-All Areas BC**	Thousand	14.4	16.3	19.9	-11.6	-18.2
Housing Starts-USA	Thousand	1,593.8	1,666.5	1,616.9	-4.4	3.1
Building Permits-BC*	$Million	4,492.0	4,695.5	4,739.6	-4.3	-0.9
Retail Sales-BC*	$Million	35,820.6	33,684.3	33,049.4	6.3	1.9
Tourism Room Revenues-BC*	$Million	NA	1,329.3	1,206.1	NA	10.2
Business Bankruptcies-BC	Number	980	1,077	1,031	-9.0	4.5
Consumer Bankruptcies-BC	Number	9,184	8,181	7,324	12.3	11.7
Exports Originating in BC*	$Million	32,518.3	28,738.0	26,045.1	13.2	10.3
Capital Expenditures-BC	$Million	20,972.2	20,056.7	20,055.2	4.6	0.0
Population-BC (as of July 1)	Thousand	4,063.8	4,028.1	3,997.5	0.9	0.8

April 26, 2001

* derived from monthly figures

**derived from quarterly figures

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT ($ MILLIONS)

	YEAR				PERCENT CHANGE		
	2000	1999	1998	1997	99-00	98-99	97-98
BRITISH COLUMBIA							
Gross Domestic Product at Market Prices		118,783	113,945	113,596		4.2	0.3
Real GDP at Market Prices (constant 1992 $)		104,323	102,217	101,277		2.1	0.9
CANADA *							
Gross Domestic Product at Market Prices	1,038,794.0	957,911	901,805	877,921	8.4	6.2	2.7
Real GDP at Market Prices (constant 1992 $)	921,485.0	880,254	842,002	815,013	4.7	4.5	3.3
UNITED STATES (Billions $US) **							
Gross Domestic Product at Market Prices	9,963.1	9,299.2	8,790.2	8,318.4	7.1	5.8	5.7
Real GDP at Market Prices (chained 1996 $US)	9,318.5	8,875.8	8,515.7	8,159.5	5.0	4.2	4.4

** Preliminary actual 2000, Statistics Canada*
*** US Department of Commerce (actual)*

INTEREST AND EXCHANGE RATES

	Apr 25/01	Apr 18/01	Mar 28/01	Apr 26/00
	PERCENT PER ANNUM			
CANADA				
Prime Business Rate	6.50	6.50	6.75	7.00
Bank Rate	5.00	5.00	5.25	5.50
Long-Term Government Bond Rate (over 10 yrs)		5.86	5.74	6.03
Conventional Mortgages-1 Year		6.80	6.70	7.70
-5 Years		7.50	7.25	8.35
UNITED STATES				
Prime Rate	7.50	7.50	8.00	9.00
EXCHANGE RATES	CANADIAN $			
US Dollar	1.5473	1.5623	1.5661	1.4735
Japanese Yen	0.0127	0.0127	0.0127	0.0139
U.K. Pound	2.2280	2.2395	2.2401	2.3280
Euro	1.3889	1.3842	1.3955	1.3724

	ESTIMATE 2000	FORECASTS - 2001			FORECASTS - 2002		
	REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT	REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT	UNEMPLOY-MENT RATE	CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	REAL GDP	U RATE	CPI
	% CHANGE	% CHANGE	PERCENT	% CHANGE	% CHG	%	% CHG
BRITISH COLUMBIA							
B.C. Government (March 2001)	3.4	2.4	7.4	1.7	2.9	7.2	1.6
TD Bank (March 28, 2001)	3.2	2.1	7.5	1.9	3.0	7.3	1.8
WEFA Group (January 2001)	2.9	2.8	6.4	1.6	3.0	6.4	1.4
CANADA							
TD Bank (March 22, 2001)		2.2	7.2	2.4	3.3	7.0	1.9
WEFA Group (March 2001)		2.5	6.9	2.4	2.8	6.7	1.7
UNITED STATES							
TD Bank (March 22, 2001)		1.3	4.5	2.7	3.4	4.8	2.5
WEFA Group (March 2001)		2.0	4.7	2.7	3.2	5.0	2.6

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

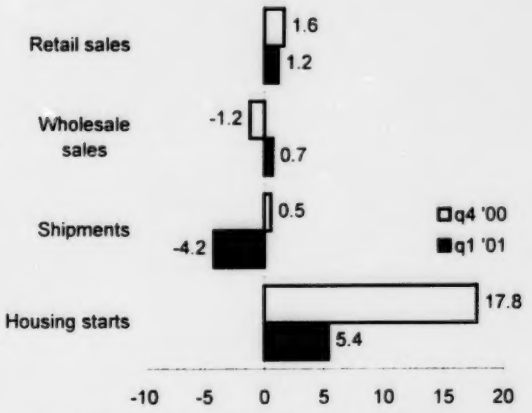
BC STATS

Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations

Contact: Data Services
Tel: (250) 387-0325
Release: May, 2001
Issue: 01-05

Current Statistics ◆ May 2001

The economy gave mixed signals in the first quarter of 2001



% change from previous quarter (seasonally adjusted data)

- **Retail sales in British Columbia slipped (-0.6%, seasonally adjusted) in March, falling to $3.1 billion.** The decline was the second since the beginning of the year, as retail sales continued to seesaw.

  Among the regions, Nova Scotia and Northwest Territories were the top performers in March, both achieving gains of 4.1%. Newfoundland saw a healthy 3.1% increase, while Alberta (+1.8%) and PEI (+1.3%) posted smaller gains. Sales were flat or fell in the rest of the country. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Despite the declining sales seen by BC retailers in February and March, retail sales were up 1.2% (seasonally adjusted) in the first quarter of this year, compared to the last three months of 2000.** This was the third consecutive quarter in which an increase has been posted, and put retail sales at their highest level since the end of 1999. First quarter sales were up all across the country, except Nova Scotia (-0.4%) and Yukon (-0.3%). Nationally, sales rose 1.1%, reaching $71.1 billion. *Source: Statistics Canada*

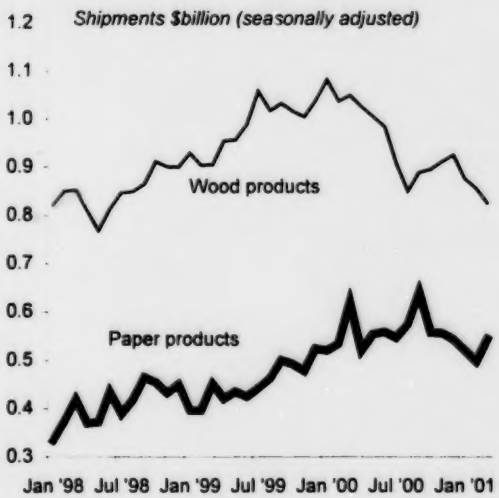
- **Wholesale sales in British Columbia made modest gains (+0.8%) in March (seasonally adjusted), increasing for the third consecutive month.** The automotive sector saw strong growth in wholesale sales, and sales of industrial and other machinery, equipment and supplies, and metals, hardware, plumbing and heating equipment and supplies also performed well.

  Source: Statistics Canada

- **Sales of wholesale goods in the province were up slightly (+0.7%, seasonally adjusted) in the first quarter of 2001 compared to the fourth quarter of the previous year.** This was the first quarterly increase since the end of 1999. Wholesale sales also rose nationally (+0.7%), as gains were posted in all provinces except Prince Edward Island (-5.6%) and Nova Scotia (-4.1%).

  Source: Statistics Canada

Shipments of paper products rose in March while wood products fell for the fifth month



- **Manufacturing shipments in BC fell 4.2% (seasonally adjusted) in the first three months of this year compared to the fourth quarter of 2000.** This followed a small increase between the last two quarters of 2000. BCs declines were mirrored across the country, except in the combined territories (+4.7%), Nova Scotia (+2.3%), Alberta (+1.8%) and Manitoba (+0.1%). Nationally shipments decreased 3.6%.

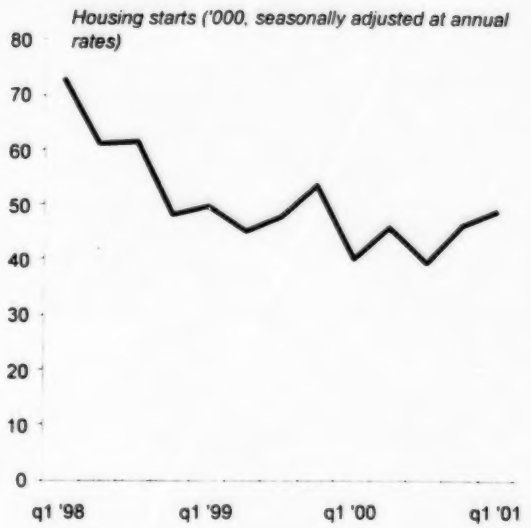
  BC shipments of durable goods fell 6.3% over the first part of this year, following a 3.1% increase in the previous quarter. Declines were posted in all the major groups. The largest industry, wood products manufacturing, saw shipments fall 6.4%. Decreases were also seen in computer and electronic products (-15.2%) and machinery manufacturing (-7.4%).

  On the non-durable goods side, shipments fell 1.2%. The decline was largely due to a fall in the largest industry in this sector, paper manufacturing (-5.7%), which was partly offset by an increase in the second largest industry, food (+5.0%). Decreased shipments were also seen in leather and allied industries (-13.5%), clothing (-10.1%) and printing and related activities (-4.9%). *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Housing starts in British Columbia were up 19.0% (seasonally adjusted) in April, ending 2 months of decline.** Starts in urban areas of the province rose 21.0%, reflecting high levels of activity in multiple unit construction.
  Source: Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation

- **Housing starts in BC increased strongly in the last quarter of 2000 (+17.8%, seasonally adjusted) and the first quarter of this year (+5.4%).** Across the country, five provinces including BC experienced a rise in starts in the first three months of this year, compared to the previous quarter. The largest increases were seen in Quebec (+10.8%), followed by Nova Scotia (+8.8%), Ontario (+6.3%) and New Brunswick (+3.6%). Nationally, housing starts rose 5.6%
  Source: Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation

BC housing starts rose in the last quarter of 2000 and the first of 2001



- **Exports from British Columbia grew 9.5% in March compared to the same month in 2000.** Energy products were the driving force behind the increase, jumping 178%. Exports of machinery and equipment (+16.5%) also saw increases. Automobile product exports had the biggest fall (-36.7%) from their March 2000 levels. Industrial goods (-16.4%) and forestry products (-12.7%) also declined.

  British Columbia's export growth in March (compared to March 2000) ranked fourth across Canada, behind Alberta (+27.8%), New Brunswick (+24.4%), and Nova Scotia (+12.1%). Total Canadian exports rose 1.6%.
  Source: Statistics Canada

- **British Columbia saw large gains in exports in the first quarter of 2001 (+15.2%).** These gains were largely attributed to a huge increase in exports of energy products, up 192% from the first quarter of 2000. Machinery and equipment exports (+17.4%) also climbed. Automotive exports have slumped in the first quarter of 2001, down 33.2% from first quarter 2000 levels. Exports of forestry products (-12.5%), and consumer goods (-6.7%) also declined. *Source: Statistics Canada*

MONTHLY STATISTICS

	UNITS	REFERENCE PERIOD	CURRENT			MONTHLY AVERAGE YEAR-TO-DATE	
			LATEST MONTH	% CHANGE FROM LAST MONTH	% CHANGE FROM YEAR AGO	AMOUNT	% CHANGE FROM YEAR AGO
PRICES							
Consumer Price Index-BC	1992=100	Apr '01	115.0	1.5	2.3	113.9	1.8
Consumer Price Index-Vancouver	1992=100	Apr '01	115.7	1.5	2.5	114.7	2.2
Consumer Price Index-Victoria	1992=100	Apr '01	114.2	1.6	1.7	112.9	1.1
Consumer Price Index-Canada	1992=100	Apr '01	116.4	0.7	3.6	115.5	3.0
Consumer Price Index-USA	1982-84=100	Apr '01	176.9	0.4	3.3	176.0	3.4
Industrial Product Price Index-Canada	1992=100	Apr '01	130.3	0.2	2.7	129.6	2.7
LABOUR							
Unemployment Rate (SA)*-BC	Percent	Apr '01	6.9	(6.6)	(6.9)	7.1	(7.0)
Unemployment Rate (SA)-Canada	Percent	Apr '01	7.0	(7.0)	(6.8)	7.0	(6.8)
Unemployment Rate (SA)-USA	Percent	Apr '01	4.5	(4.3)	(4.0)	4.3	(4.0)
Unemployed (SA)-BC	Thousand	Apr '01	145.3	4.7	0.5	147.9	0.3
Employed (SA)-BC	Thousand	Apr '01	1,961.3	-0.5	1.2	1,956.2	0.8
Labour Force (SA)-BC	Thousand	Apr '01	2,106.6	-0.2	1.2	2,104.1	0.7
Participation Rate (SA)-BC	Percent	Apr '01	64.4	(64.6)	(64.5)	64.5	(64.8)
Employment Insurance Benefits Paid-BC	$Million	Mar '01	131.1	-11.8	-2.2	144.5	5.5
Average Weekly Wage Rate-BC***	Dollars	Apr '01	650.42	0.0	2.3	646.09	2.5
Wages and Salaries-BC (SA) (NAICS)	$Million	Mar '01	5,135.4	0.1	4.7	5,122.4	4.9
Fixed-Weighted Earnings Index-BC (NAICS)	1996=100	Mar '01	104.6	1.3	1.4	103.8	0.9
PRODUCTION-B.C.							
Lumber-Cubic Metres	Thousand	Mar '01	2,514.1	-16.3	-19.3	2,787.1	-3.3
Market Pulp Shipments-Tonnes	Thousand	Apr '01	433.0	1.6	-2.7	414.0	-12.6
Newsprint Shipments-Tonnes	Thousand	Apr '01	115	-3.4	3.6	118	-4.1
Other Paper Shipments-Tonnes	Thousand	Apr '01	131	-7.7	-9.0	135	-5.8
Coal-Tonnes	Thousand	Feb '01	2,163.1	-5.6	-4.8	2,227.5	-1.0
Oil-Cubic Metres	Thousand	Jan '01	201.8	-4.5	2.9	201.8	2.9
Natural Gas-Cubic Metres	Million	Jan '01	2,425.6	11.3	18.8	2,425.6	18.8
Electric Power Generated	GW.h	Feb '01	5,469.1	-3.8	-12.0	5,578.6	-14.4
Manufacturing Shipments (SA) (NAICS)	$Million	Mar '01	2,940.2	-0.8	-10.9	2,970.6	-8.1
GENERAL							
Housing Starts-All Areas BC(SAAR)**	Thousand	Apr '01	16.3	19.0	-2.4	16.3	14.6
Housing Starts-USA (SAAR)	Thousand	Mar '01	1,613.0	-1.3	-1.0	1,639.0	-5.4
Building Permits-BC	$Million	Mar '01	402.7	21.2	15.4	344.2	7.4
Retail Sales (SA)-BC	$Million	Mar '01	3,098.7	-0.6	5.8	3,094.2	5.9
Tourism Room Revenues (SA)-BC	$Million	Dec '00	132,250.0	6.8	15.9	120,182.0	8.5
Business Bankruptcies-BC	Number	Mar '01	93	8.1	-14.7	91	8.8
Exports Originating in BC (SA)	$Million	Mar '01	2,954.4	1.0	12.2	2,987.2	16.8

May 31, 2001

*SA indicates seasonal adjustment.

**SAAR indicates seasonally adjusted at annual rates.

***Average Weekly Wage Rate from the Labour Force Survey. This replaces Average Weekly Earnings from the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours.

Brackets () indicate that rates are shown instead of percentage changes.

ANNUAL STATISTICS

	UNITS	YEAR			PERCENT CHANGE	
		2000	1999	1998	1999-2000	1998-1999
PRICES						
Consumer Price Index-BC	1992=100	113.3	111.2	110.0	1.9	1.1
Consumer Price Index-Vancouver	1992=100	113.9	111.4	110.4	2.2	0.9
Consumer Price Index-Victoria	1992=100	113.0	111.1	110.0	1.7	1.0
Consumer Price Index-Canada	1992=100	113.5	110.5	108.6	2.7	1.7
Consumer Price Index-USA*	1982-84=100	172.2	166.6	163.0	3.4	2.2
Industrial Product Price Index-Canada*	1992=100	127.7	121.7	119.4	4.9	1.9
LABOUR						
Unemployment Rate-BC	Percent	7.2	8.3	8.8		
Unemployment Rate-Canada	Percent	6.8	7.6	8.3		
Unemployment Rate-USA*	Percent	4.0	4.2	4.5		
Unemployed-BC	Thousand	150.6	172.8	181.0	-12.8	-4.5
Employed-BC	Thousand	1,949.1	1,906.4	1,870.2	2.2	1.9
Labour Force-BC	Thousand	2,099.7	2,079.1	2,051.2	1.0	1.4
Participation Rate-BC	Percent	64.9	65.1	64.9		
Employment Insurance Benefits Paid-BC*	$Million	1,364.4	1,520.9	1,626.6	-10.3	-6.5
Average Weekly Wage Rate-BC	Dollars	637.07	625.22	618.35	1.9	1.1
Wages and Salaries-BC (NAICS)*	$Million	59,751.8	56,263.5	54,173.2	6.2	3.9
Fixed-Weighted Earnings Index-BC (NAICS)*	1996=100	103.1	100.7	100.1	2.4	0.6
PRODUCTION-B.C.						
Lumber-Cubic Metres*	Thousand	32,155.6	31,833.0	30,237.9	1.0	5.3
Market Pulp Shipments-Tonnes*	Thousand	5,152	4,995	4,462	3.1	11.9
Newsprint Shipments-Tonnes*	Thousand	1,452	1,380	1,193	5.2	15.7
Other Paper Shipments-Tonnes*	Thousand	1,674	1,636	1,374	2.3	19.1
Coal-Tonnes*	Thousand	25,259.3	24,301.5	25,366.0	3.9	-4.2
Oil-Cubic Metres*	Thousand	2,552.3	2,347.6	2,763.7	8.7	-15.1
Natural Gas-Cubic Metres*	Million	25,163.5	24,635.1	24,117.7	2.1	2.1
Electric Power Generated*	GW.h	68,239.5	68,044.5	67,709.7	0.3	0.5
Solid Mineral Production	$Million	2,871.2	2,565.0	3,025.6	11.9	-15.2
Farm Cash Receipts**	$Million	2,076.5	1,934.5	1,834.9	7.3	5.4
Manufacturing Shipments (NAICS)*	$Million	37,767.5	35,616.0	31,756.7	6.0	12.2
GENERAL						
Housing Starts-All Areas BC**	Thousand	14.4	16.3	19.9	-11.6	-18.2
Housing Starts-USA	Thousand	1,593.8	1,666.5	1,616.9	-4.4	3.1
Building Permits-BC*	$Million	4,492.0	4,695.5	4,739.6	-4.3	-0.9
Retail Sales-BC*	$Million	35,820.6	33,684.3	33,049.4	6.3	1.9
Tourism Room Revenues-BC*	$Million	1,442.2	1,329.3	1,206.1	8.5	10.2
Business Bankruptcies-BC	Number	980	1,077	1,031	-9.0	4.5
Consumer Bankruptcies-BC	Number	9,184	8,181	7,324	12.3	11.7
Exports Originating in BC*	$Million	33,240.8	28,738.0	26,045.1	15.7	10.3
Capital Expenditures-BC	$Million	20,972.2	20,056.7	20,055.2	4.6	0.0
Population-BC (as of July 1)	Thousand	4,063.8	4,028.1	3,997.5	0.9	0.8

May 31, 2001

* derived from monthly figures

**derived from quarterly figures

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT ($ MILLIONS)

	YEAR				PERCENT CHANGE		
	2000	1999	1998	1997	99-00	98-99	97-98
BRITISH COLUMBIA							
Gross Domestic Product at Market Prices		118,783	113,945	113,596		4.2	0.3
Real GDP at Market Prices (constant 1992 $)		104,323	102,217	101,277		2.1	0.9
CANADA *							
Gross Domestic Product at Market Prices	1,056,010	975,263	915,865	885,022	8.3	6.5	3.5
Real GDP at Market Prices (chained 1997 $)	1,009,182	966,362	919,770	885,022	4.4	5.1	3.9
UNITED STATES (Billions $US) **							
Gross Domestic Product at Market Prices	9,963.1	9,299.2	8,790.2	8,318.4	7.1	5.8	5.7
Real GDP at Market Prices (chained 1996 $US)	9,318.5	8,875.8	8,515.7	8,159.5	5.0	4.2	4.4

** Preliminary actual 2000, Statistics Canada*
*** US Department of Commerce (actual)*

INTEREST AND EXCHANGE RATES

	May 30/01	May 23/01	Apr 25/01	May 31/00
	PERCENT PER ANNUM			
CANADA				
Prime Business Rate	6.25	6.50	6.50	7.50
Bank Rate	4.75	5.00	5.00	6.00
Long-Term Government Bond Rate (over 10 yrs)		6.07	5.94	5.94
Conventional Mortgages-1 Year		6.70	6.80	8.30
-5 Years		7.75	7.75	8.75
UNITED STATES				
Prime Rate	7.00	7.00	7.50	9.50
EXCHANGE RATES	CANADIAN $			
US Dollar	1.5460	1.5458	1.5473	1.4978
Japanese Yen	0.0129	0.0128	0.0127	0.0139
U.K. Pound	2.2031	2.2023	2.2280	2.2423
Euro	1.3262	1.3292	1.3889	1.3978

	ESTIMATE 2000	FORECASTS - 2001			FORECASTS - 2002		
	REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT	REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT	UNEMPLOY-MENT RATE	CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	REAL GDP	U RATE	CPI
	% CHANGE	% CHANGE	PERCENT	% CHANGE	% CHG	%	% CHG
BRITISH COLUMBIA							
B.C. Government (March 2001)	3.4	2.4	7.4	1.7	2.9	7.2	1.6
TD Bank (March 28, 2001)	3.2	2.1	7.5	1.9	3.0	7.3	1.8
WEFA Group (January 2001)	2.9	2.8	6.4	1.6	3.0	6.4	1.4
CANADA							
TD Bank (March 22, 2001)		2.2	7.2	2.4	3.3	7.0	1.9
WEFA Group (March 2001)		2.5	6.9	2.4	2.8	6.7	1.7
UNITED STATES							
TD Bank (March 22, 2001)		1.3	4.5	2.7	3.4	4.8	2.5
WEFA Group (March 2001)		2.0	4.7	2.7	3.2	5.0	2.6

May 31, 2001

NUMBER

NUMÉRO

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS

Ministry of Management Services

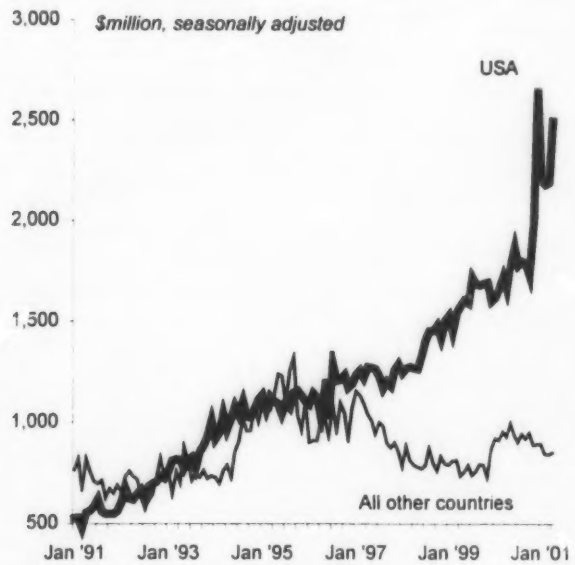
Contact: Data Services
Tel: (250) 387-0325
Release: Date, 2001
Issue: 01-06

Current Statistics ◆ June 2001

- **Exports of BC products rose between March and April, increasing 10.4% (seasonally adjusted).** The strength in BC's exports continued to come from the US market, as energy exports remained strong. Total shipments rose by 14.0% as increases in forestry (+11.1%), mineral (including natural gas) (+20.5%) and other (including electricity) (+13.8%) export products were only partly offset by a slight decline in exports of agriculture and fish products (-0.6%).

  Exports to other countries, excluding the US, were also up in April (+1.2%). The increase resulted mainly from a slight rise in international shipments of forestry and related products (+0.2%), combined with a 28.8% jump in mineral exports. Declines were seen in exports of agriculture and fishing (-2.5%) and other (-12.1%) products. *Source: BC STATS*

Exports of BC products to the US rose sharply in April, driven largely by energy products



Public sector employment rates in BC remained unchanged between 1999 and 2000

- **The number of public sector jobs in the province increased slightly (+0.5%) to 352,105 in 2000.** Employment decreased in the local (-0.4%) sector, but this was more than offset by gains in the number of people working in both the federal (+1.5%) and provincial (+1.2%) government sectors. The increase in provincial government employment was due to more workers in all three major areas: government ministries and agencies (+1.8%), universities and colleges (+1.3%), and health and social services (+0.8%). However, federal, provincial and local crown corporations (-1.2%) in BC decreased the size of their workforce in 2000.
  Source: Statistics Canada

- **The number of public sector jobs per 1,000 population remained unchanged in BC last year.** There were 87 employees per 1,000 population, the same number as in 1998 and 1999. Along with BC, Ontario (83) and Alberta (89) were the only provinces where the public sector employment rate was below the Canadian average (92) in 2000. The highest em-

ployment to population ratios were found in Manitoba (122), PEI (118) and Saskatchewan (111). *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Manufacturing shipments in BC fell 0.5% between March and April (seasonally adjusted).** The drop in the value of shipments was the fourth in as many months. Shipments were down in six provinces including BC, with the largest decreases seen in Saskatchewan (-7.2%), Alberta (-3.6%) and Quebec (-3.6%). Overall, Canadian shipments dropped 0.6%.

  BC shipments of non-durable goods fell 5.0% in April, the largest decrease since October last year. The decline was largely due to a sharp drop in paper manufacturing (-11.8%), which was only partly offset by an increase in food shipments (+1.1%). The value of goods shipped by the clothing (-12.1%), leather and allied (-6.4%) and printing and related (-5.6%) industries also fell.

  On the durable goods side, shipments rose 2.8%, ending a three-month long decline. Increases were seen in six of the major groups in this sector, including the largest industry, wood product manufacturing (+3.4%). Shipments also rose for transportation equipment (+9.6%), computer and electronic products (+5.1%) and electronic equipment, appliance and component manufacturing (+2.5%).
  Source: Statistics Canada

- **British Columbia's all-items consumer price index (CPI) was 2.5% higher in May than the same month in 2000.** This was the biggest year-over-year increase since January, but compared to the rest of the country, the May inflation rate was the lowest of all the provinces. Prices increased all across the country, with the largest rises recorded in Alberta (+5.7%) and Ontario (+4.2%). Nationally, the CPI jumped 3.9%. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **BC's unemployment rate edged down to 6.8% (seasonally adjusted) in May.** The dip in the unemployment rate was due to employment growth (+0.6%), which was more than strong enough to absorb a net addition of 10,900 people (+0.5%) to the labour force.
  Source: Statistics Canada

The Canadian dollar exchange rate has been far more variable against the UK pound than the US dollar over the last 20 years

- **British Columbia's retail sales fell for the second straight month in April, declining 1.0% (seasonally adjusted).** Across the country, sales were generally weaker in the east, falling in Newfoundland (-3.9%), PEI (-0.3%) and Nova Scotia (-0.3%). All other provinces, except BC, saw increased sales, with the strongest figures reported in Quebec (+3.9%) and New Brunswick (+3.7%). Nationally, sales rose 1.6%. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The number of consumer bankruptcies in BC rose 8.0% in April, relative to the same month in 2000.** There were 744 bankruptcies in the province, compared to 689 registered twelve months previously. Across the country, consumer bankruptcies increased in all provinces and in Yukon. The number fell in NWT and remained flat in Nunavut. In total, 6,539 consumers filed for bankruptcy in April, up 612 or 10.3% over the same month last year.
  Source: Industry Canada

- **Business bankruptcies in the province rose 31.4% year-over-year in April** The number of Canadian businesses filing bankruptcy papers also increased (+15.5%). In total, 910 businesses in Canada, and 92 in BC filed papers in April. *Source: Industry Canada*

MONTHLY STATISTICS

	UNITS	REFERENCE PERIOD	CURRENT			MONTHLY AVERAGE YEAR-TO-DATE	
			LATEST MONTH	% CHANGE FROM LAST MONTH	% CHANGE FROM YEAR AGO	AMOUNT	% CHANGE FROM YEAR AGO
PRICES							
Consumer Price Index-BC	1992=100	May '01	115.6	0.5	2.5	114.2	1.9
Consumer Price Index-Vancouver	1992=100	May '01	116.3	0.5	2.6	115.0	2.3
Consumer Price Index-Victoria	1992=100	May '01	114.8	0.5	1.9	113.3	1.2
Consumer Price Index-Canada	1992=100	May '01	117.4	0.9	3.9	115.9	3.2
Consumer Price Index-USA	1982-84=100	May '01	177.7	0.5	3.6	176.3	3.4
Industrial Product Price Index-Canada	1992=100	May '01	131.0	0.3	2.7	129.9	2.8
LABOUR							
Unemployment Rate (SA)*-BC	Percent	May '01	6.8	(6.9)	(6.9)	7.0	(7.0)
Unemployment Rate (SA)-Canada	Percent	May '01	7.0	(7.0)	(6.7)	7.0	(6.8)
Unemployment Rate (SA)-USA	Percent	May '01	4.4	(4.5)	(4.1)	4.3	(4.0)
Unemployed (SA)-BC	Thousand	May '01	143.8	-1.0	-0.7	147.1	0.1
Employed (SA)-BC	Thousand	May '01	1,973.8	0.6	1.2	1,959.7	0.8
Labour Force (SA)-BC	Thousand	May '01	2,117.5	0.5	1.0	2,106.8	0.8
Participation Rate (SA)-BC	Percent	May '01	64.7	(64.4)	(64.8)	64.5	(64.8)
Employment Insurance Benefits Paid-BC	$Million	Mar '01	131.1	-11.8	-2.2	144.5	5.5
Average Weekly Wage Rate-BC***	Dollars	May '01	649.78	-0.1	2.2	646.83	2.5
Wages and Salaries-BC (SA) (NAICS)	$Million	Mar '01	5,135.4	0.1	4.7	5,122.4	4.9
Fixed-Weighted Earnings Index-BC (NAICS)	1996=100	Apr '01	104.1	0.0	0.8	103.8	0.8
PRODUCTION-B.C.							
Lumber-Cubic Metres	Thousand	Apr '01	2,780.1	10.6	-5.3	2,785.4	-3.8
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Other Paper Shipments-Tonnes	Thousand	Apr '01	131	-7.7	-9.0	135	-5.8
Coal-Tonnes	Thousand	Mar '01	2,372.6	9.7	6.5	2,275.8	1.5
Oil-Cubic Metres	Thousand	Mar '01	209.7	14.2	2.2	198.4	0.9
Natural Gas-Cubic Metres	Million	Mar '01	2,282.0	13.3	11.9	2,160.2	7.3
Electric Power Generated	GW.h	Mar '01	4,554.9	-16.7	-16.4	5,237.2	-15.0
Manufacturing Shipments (SA) (NAICS)	$Million	Apr '01	2,937.5	-0.5	-6.2	2,967.8	-7.4
GENERAL							
Housing Starts-All Areas BC(SAAR)**	Thousand	May '01	17.5	7.4	14.4	16.5	14.5
Housing Starts-USA (SAAR)	Thousand	Mar '01	1,613.0	-1.3	-1.0	1,639.0	-5.4
Building Permits-BC	$Million	Apr '01	483.2	20.0	48.1	378.9	17.7
Retail Sales (SA)-BC	$Million	Apr '01	3,072.3	-1.0	4.6	3,089.1	5.6
Tourism Room Revenues (SA)-BC	$Million	Feb '01	130,079.0	-2.6	10.3	131,821.0	13.0
Business Bankruptcies-BC	Number	Apr '01	92	-1.1	31.4	91	13.7
Exports Originating in BC (SA)	$Million	Apr '01	3,339.5	12.9	28.6	3,124.5	21.7

June 28, 2001

*SA indicates seasonal adjustment.

**SAAR indicates seasonally adjusted at annual rates.

***Average Weekly Wage Rate from the Labour Force Survey. This replaces Average Weekly Earnings from the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours.

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GENERAL						
Housing Starts-All Areas BC**	Thousand	14.4	16.3	19.9	-11.6	-18.2
Housing Starts-USA	Thousand	1,593.8	1,666.5	1,616.9	-4.4	3.1
Building Permits-BC*	SMillion	4,492.0	4,695.5	4,739.6	-4.3	-0.9
Retail Sales-BC*	SMillion	35,820.6	33,684.3	33,049.4	6.3	1.9
Tourism Room Revenues-BC*	SMillion	1,442.7	1,329.3	1,206.1	8.5	10.2
Business Bankruptcies-BC	Number	980	1,077	1,031	-9.0	4.5
Consumer Bankruptcies-BC	Number	9,184	8,181	7,324	12.3	11.7
Exports Originating in BC*	SMillion	33,240.8	28,738.0	26,045.1	15.7	10.3
Capital Expenditures-BC	SMillion	20,972.2	20,056.7	20,055.2	4.6	0.0
Population-BC (as of July 1)	Thousand	4,063.8	4,028.1	3,997.5	0.9	0.8

June 28, 2001

* derived from monthly figures

**derived from quarterly figures

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT ($ MILLIONS)

	YEAR				PERCENT CHANGE		
	2000	1999	1998	1997	99-00	98-99	97-98
BRITISH COLUMBIA							
Gross Domestic Product at Market Prices		118,783	113,945	113,596		4.2	0.3
Real GDP at Market Prices (constant 1992 $)		104,323	102,217	101,277		2.1	0.9
CANADA *							
Gross Domestic Product at Market Prices	1,056,010	975,263	915,865	885,022	8.3	6.5	3.5
Real GDP at Market Prices (chained 1997 $)	1,009,182	966,362	919,770	885,022	4.4	5.1	3.9
UNITED STATES (Billions $US) **							
Gross Domestic Product at Market Prices	9,963.1	9,299.2	8,790.2	8,318.4	7.1	5.8	5.7
Real GDP at Market Prices (chained 1996 $US)	9,318.5	8,875.8	8,515.7	8,159.5	5.0	4.2	4.4

** Preliminary actual 2000. Statistics Canada*

*** US Department of Commerce (actual)*

INTEREST AND EXCHANGE RATES

	June 27/01	June 20/01	May 23/01	June 28/00
	PERCENT PER ANNUM			
CANADA				
Prime Business Rate	6.25	6.25	6.50	7.50
Bank Rate	4.75	4.75	5.00	6.00
Long-Term Government Bond Rate (over 10 yrs)		5.99	6.07	5.90
Conventional Mortgages-1 Year		6.70	6.70	8.10
-5 Years		7.75	7.75	8.45
UNITED STATES				
Prime Rate		7.00	7.00	9.50
EXCHANGE RATES	CANADIAN $			
US Dollar	1.5169	1.5281	1.5458	1.4839
Japanese Yen	0.0122	0.0124	0.0128	0.0140
U.K. Pound	2.1520	2.1413	2.2023	2.2268
Euro	1.3075	1.3114	1.3292	1.3923

	ESTIMATE 2000	FORECASTS - 2001			FORECASTS - 2002		
	REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT	REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT	UNEMPLOY-MENT RATE	CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	REAL GDP	U RATE	CPI
	% CHANGE	% CHANGE	PERCENT	% CHANGE	% CHG	%	% CHG
BRITISH COLUMBIA							
B.C. Government (March 2001)	3.4	2.4	7.4	1.7	2.9	7.2	1.6
TD Bank (March 28, 2001)	3.2	2.1	7.5	1.9	3.0	7.3	1.8
WEFA Group (January 2001)	2.9	2.8	6.4	1.6	3.0	6.4	1.4
CANADA							
TD Bank (March 22, 2001)		2.2	7.2	2.4	3.3	7.0	1.9
WEFA Group (March 2001)		2.5	6.9	2.4	2.8	6.7	1.7
UNITED STATES							
TD Bank (March 22, 2001)		1.3	4.5	2.7	3.4	4.8	2.5
WEFA Group (March 2001)		2.0	4.7	2.7	3.2	5.0	2.6

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